1/6/72

Mr. Tom Kelley, Assistant Director
U.S.Secret Service
1800 G St., NW
Washington, D.C. 20026

Dear Tom,

In response to my request for a copy of the legend you had wrapped around the WDSU footage when, pursuant to my request, you sent it to the National Archives, instead of responding in any way to that proper request, the Archivist, under date of January 4, 1972, sent me copies of my 12/9/69 letter to you and yours of 11/22/69 to him. As the Archives has failed to respond to this request before, I assume they are not as stupid as this latest effort at suppression reflects but are deliberately refusing to supply this or merely needlessly placing bureaucratic obstacles in my way.

In any event, I've had a bellyfull of this kind of deliberate whipsawing and instead of asking the Archivist for it still another time, I'll take this picayune matter of a single line of typing to court. I've tried to avoid needless scandal as much as I can but they leave me little choice.

However, your letter of 11/22/69 asks for the return of that footage if it is identical with what the Archives had. It is identical, therefore, perhaps they have returned it to you. In that event, will you please send me a xerox of the description of that footage that was wrapped around it when I examined it at the Archives?

The Secret Service records, only part of which are cited in my letter of 12/9/69, reflect that the photographer, Johann Rush, provided you with as I recall a total of 17 stills from that footage. The Archives showed me a total of three stills, one coming from the WWL footage. I do not now ask for copies of any of these stills. But I renew my request for permission to see them. Then I can determine whether, in fact, I want any. I have a copy of the movie film itself, provided by Ed Planer, news director of WDSU. It is identical with your copy. My interest, frankly, is in what has been eliminated from this footage but is described as in these stills. If this interests you, I was in New Orleans recently and can tell you some of what is no longer in this footage but was after the assassination and before it was duplicated.

Thank you very much.

Sincerely,

Harold Weisberg